

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this response, as the response places the application in clear condition for allowance, or alternately places the claims in better form for appeal. Specifically, rejected claims are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application; Claims 12-19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Initially, Applicants express thanks for the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1-11.

In the Office Action Claims 12-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,641,203 to Van De Riet et al. Inasmuch as Claims 12-19 are canceled, it is asserted that the rejection is mooted.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-11 is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/644,810
Reply to Office Action of February 15, 2005

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Customer Number

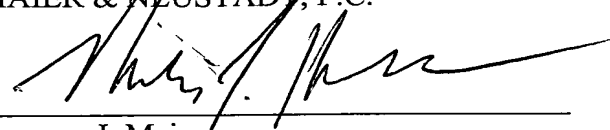
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340

GJM/PH/me

I:\ATTY\PH\24S\241772\PRP 04.07.05.DOC